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BRIEFING

CELEBRATING • OUR • SESQUICENTENNIAL



APRIL 2008

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SPRING CLEANING TIME CITYWIDE GARAGE SALES

HERE ARE THREE GREAT WAYS to clean up this spring: Set items out for the Curbside Cleanup, *see page 4*; donate usable items to charitable organizations; or sell your unwanted treasures at the Citywide Garage Sales, sponsored by Bloomington Optimist Youth Foundation, **Thursday - Saturday, May 29 - 31**. Registration is \$20 and includes a yard sign, advertising and individual listing in the official registry of sale addresses. For more information, call Jim Meyers at 952-831-3798.

Download forms on the City's Web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Garage sale.

YOUTH SERVICE DAYS OPPORTUNITIES TO VOLUNTEER

HUMAN SERVICES COORDINATES several youth service opportunities throughout April. Projects include tree planting, park and street cleanup, and helping senior citizens. Youth and youth groups who volunteer for City-sponsored programs will be invited to attend the Mayor's Volunteer Breakfast. For more information, call Human Services Coordinator Kerry Stone at 952-563-8737, 952-563-4957 V/TY, or e-mail kstone@ci.bloomington.mn.us.

PROTECT YOURSELF BE WARY OF DOOR-TO-DOOR PEDDLERS

CITY CODE requires all solicitors to carry a City-issued license and identification card when soliciting door-to-door. The code also states that solicitors must not operate between 8 p.m. and 9 a.m., enter a property with a posted "No Solicitation" or similar sign, or use aggressive sales techniques.



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MUSIC AT THE OLD MET STADIUM

WHEN MOST PEOPLE think back to the days when the old Metropolitan Stadium existed, their memories are of hot dogs and home runs, winning touchdowns and goals scored. Yet, resident Charles Wood remembers music. A former opera singer, Wood sang the national anthem at the start of every Vikings football game for more than 17 years. At seven games a year that translates to roughly 120 performances.

"I loved singing the national anthem," said Wood. "I have a lot of great memories."

Taking a break from singing, Wood also had the opportunity to direct the Olson Jr. High Choir during a halftime show in 1974, *see photo right*. This was a special occasion for Wood, as the Viking Band and the St. Louis Parkettes were the usual halftime entertainment.

The Vikings played their last game at Metropolitan Stadium against the Kansas City Chiefs on December 20, 1981.

BLOOMINGTON - YESTERDAY



Photo courtesy of Doug McKilligan.

OLD TOWN HALL DEDICATION CELEBRATE BLOOMINGTON'S SESQUICENTENNIAL

OLD TOWN HALL, on the corner of Penn Avenue and Old Shakopee Road, was recently restored inside and out to its original 1892 appearance. It will be dedicated in a special Sesquicentennial ceremony **Sunday, May 11, 1 - 4 p.m.** This will be the first opportunity for the public to see the newly renovated building. The event also marks the anniversary of the day the Town of Bloomington was organized. Event highlights include: costumed reenactors, historical site tours, pioneer fair, crafts, music, performance by the Gallery Players, an ice cream social and much more.

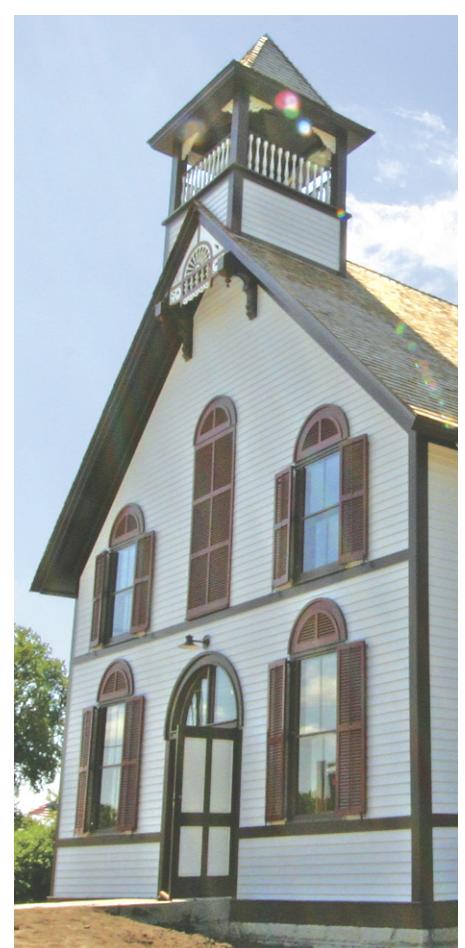
"The completion of the restoration work on Old Town Hall marks the beginning of a new and vital chapter in the building's history," Parks and Recreation Supervisor Mark Morrison said. "This project has shown what great

things can happen when cities and citizen groups work together toward a common goal."

Old Town Hall is in a historic part of the city and one of the last old town halls in the metropolitan area, according to Morrison. In fact, it was recently mentioned in *American Town and County* magazine in an article praising the restoration project.

The goal of the restoration effort was to preserve Bloomington's past and present identity and to ensure that standards for historical preservation were maintained. The exterior restoration, including a new parking lot and landscaping, was completed in January. The interior renovation is scheduled for completion in late April 2008. Interior improvements include new hardwood floors, a new ceiling, installation of modern lighting, tile flooring in the basement, an accessible bathroom and a new security system.

The Bloomington Historical Society has signed a five-year lease to use the building as a historical museum. The Society raised \$140,000 toward the exterior restoration, in part by selling engraved bricks. The engraved bricks will be added to a brick paver patio on the south side of the building. Additional



bricks are available for sale until September 15. Visit www.bloomingtonhistoricalsociety.org for details.

For information on the restoration project, call Recreation Supervisor Mark Morrison at 952-563-8693. For more information on Sesquicentennial events visit www.ci.bloomington.mn.us or call Communications Administrator Janine Hill at 952-563-8819.



Photo courtesy Frank J. Pahl family.

BLOOMINGTON CENTURY FAMILIES

IF YOUR FAMILY lineage in Bloomington dates back 100 years or more, we want to hear from you! Submit photos and stories to City of Bloomington Communications, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, MN 55431, call Communications Administrator Janine Hill at 952-563-8819 or visit the City's Web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us.



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